

## ***Of Saving Faith, Part 3 (Colossians 2:2)***

*Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Chapter 14, Paragraph 3*

### **Doctrine**

#### *Varying Degrees of Saving Faith*

- Saving Faith, both from one Christian to another and within the life of any Christian, will be **different** in degrees.
- Some may be **weak** in faith: that is,
  - i) They are immature in their **understanding** (Heb 5:13,14),
  - ii) They are immature in their **experience** (1 Jn 2:12-14), or
  - iii) They do not yet trust the Lord for every **provision** (Mt 6:30).
- Yet, the believer still has true **faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- It is not **mature** saving faith, but saving faith, through which one is justified – and that is granted and grown in measure by the determinant will of God (Rom 12:3).
- Nevertheless, each Christian is called by God to diligently seek the **maturity** of faith.

#### *Distinguishing True and Saving Faith*

- Saving **faith** (the trust in Christ given to believers that they would be justified) is different in kind, or nature, than the faith of temporary believers, which is not true faith (Mt 13:3-8).
- Likewise, saving **grace** (the grace bestowed on the elect) is different from God's common grace (God's temporal benevolence towards the reprobate), which is both for their destruction (Mt 6:2, 5, 16) and the benefit of the elect (Rom 9:22-23).
- Saving faith and grace are peculiar, lasting and **eternal**.

#### *The Victory of Saving Faith*

- Saving faith of believers will be undoubtedly assailed and weakened through the **warfare** of the Christian life (Eph 6:12).
- Yet, faith will have the **victory** (1 Jn 5:4-5): that is,
  - i) The defeat of **sin** and the world (Heb 11:32-38),
  - ii) Withstanding the **accusations** of the enemy (Eph 6:16),
  - iii) Growing up to the attainment of a full **assurance** of salvation through Christ (Heb 6:11-12), and
  - iv) The obtaining of the **promise** (Heb 11:39-40).
- This full assurance of salvation is not granted to all the elect, and there are even those who are **strong** which do waver in their faith.

#### *The Victor of Saving Faith (Heb 12:2)*

- Christ is the **author** of our faith, for He is the whole and substance of our hope.
- Christ is the **finisher** of our faith, subduing us and persevering us by His kingly power and rule.

### **Application**

- 1) Beware Over-Examination and **Introspection**
- 2) Beware the Sale of **False Assurance**
- 3) **Diligent** Use of the Ordinary Means of Grace
- 4) Fervent **Worship** and Praise of the Lord God
- 5) Regular **Testimony** to the Work of Christ